

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 14-16, 19, and 30-38 are pending. Claims 15, 33, and 34 have been amended. New claims 35-38 have been added. No new matter has been introduced. Applicants believe the claims comply with 35 U.S.C. § 112.

Applicants note with appreciation the allowance of claims 14, 16, and 19, and the indicated allowability of claims 31 and 32 if rewritten in independent form. Claim 31 has been rewritten in independent form as new claim 37. Claim 38 depends from claim 37. Thus, claims 37 and 38 are allowable.

Claims 15, 31, and 32

Claim 15 stands rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Tomiyasu et al. (US 2002/0119350).

Applicants respectfully submit that claim 15 is novel and patentable over Tomiyasu et al. because, for instance, Tomiyasu et al. does not teach or suggest a first seed layer that comprises at least Cr and one of Ti, Ta, or Ti and Ta; and a second seed layer that comprises Cr or a Cr alloy containing Cr and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W.

In Tomiyasu et al., there is no initial and non-initial growth film, since paragraph [0030] only discloses that the upper layer has a work of an initial growth film of a film formed thereon. This means that the upper layer 22 works as a base of seed layer 3 on top.

Moreover, the CrTi layer disclosed in Tomiyasu et al. does not constitute multiple atom layers of CrTi. Even assuming arguendo that the CrTi layer were multiple atom layers of CrTi, it still would not anticipate a second seed layer that comprises Cr or a Cr alloy containing Cr and at least one element selected from the group consisting of Mo and W.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 15 and claims 31 and 32 depending therefrom are novel and patentable over Tomiyasu et al.

Claims 30, 33, and 34

Claims 30, 33, and 34 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tomiyasu et al.

Applicants respectfully assert that dependent claims 30, 33, and 34 are patentable over Tomiyasu et al. at least due to their dependency from allowable claim 15.

Claims 35 and 36

Applicants respectfully submit that new independent claim 35 is patentable over the cited references because, for instance, they do not teach or suggest a first seed layer that comprises at least Cr and one of Ti, Ta, or Ti and Ta; and a second seed layer that comprises Cr or a Cr alloy containing Cr and Ti; wherein the first and second seed layers have different Cr contents. For example, not only does Tomiyasu et al. fail to teach the first and second seed layers, but nothing in Tomiyasu et al. discloses or suggests different Cr contents for the first and second seed layers.

For at least the foregoing reasons, claim 35 and claim 36 depending therefrom are patentable.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicants believe all claims now pending in this Application are in condition for allowance. The issuance of a formal Notice of Allowance at an early date is respectfully requested.

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PATENT

If the Examiner believes a telephone conference would expedite prosecution of this application, please telephone the undersigned at 650-326-2400.

Respectfully submitted,



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